



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Dept.
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Lincoln, NE 68510
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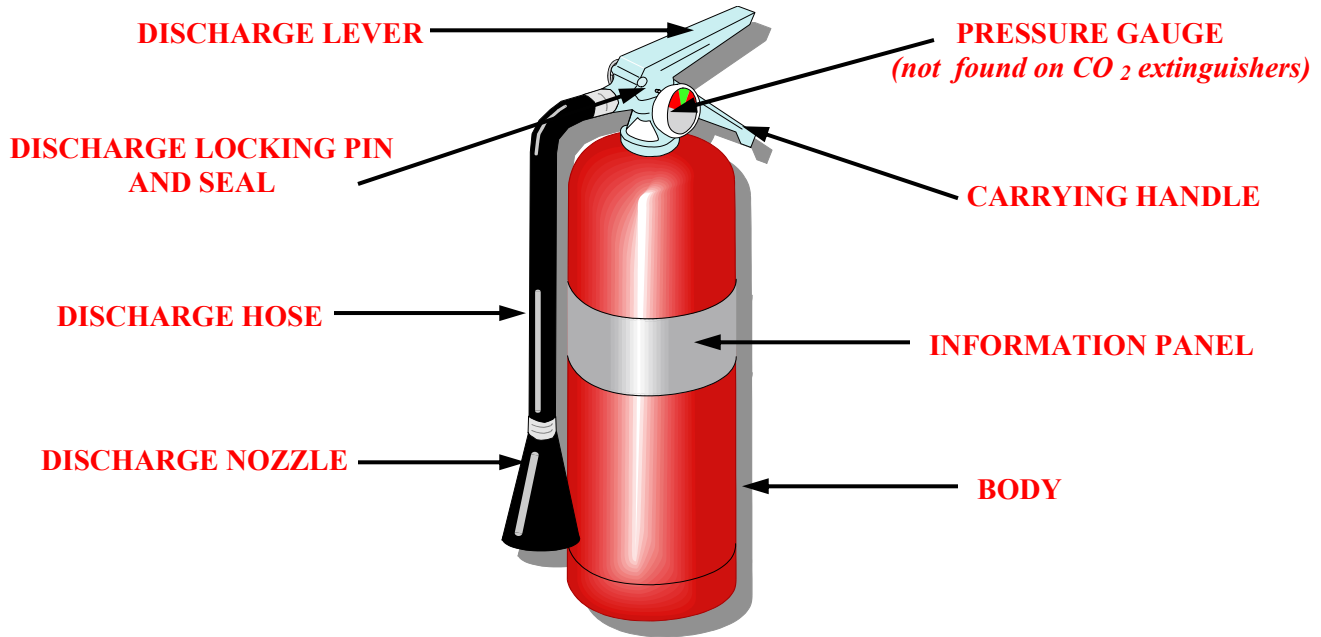
<http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/envIRON/pollu/>

Fire Extinguishers

What you need to know...



February 2005



How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

- P** **Pull the pin** at the top of the extinguisher that keeps the handle from being accidentally pressed.
- A** **Aim low at the base of flames**
- S** **Squeeze the handle** and stand approximately 8 feet away from the fire. If you release the handle, the discharge will stop.
- S** **Sweep side to side** aiming at the base of the fire.



Maintenance and Storage

The best piece of equipment will not operate if it is not recharged and maintained properly. History has proven that nearly every fire extinguisher failure can be traced back to human negligence.

Fire extinguishers should be visually *inspected monthly* to assure that:

1. They are in their assigned place and mounted securely;
2. They are not blocked or hidden;
3. Pressure gauges show adequate pressure;
4. Pin and seals are in place;
5. They show no visual sign of damage or abuse;
6. Nozzles are free of blockage.

Fire Extinguisher Disposal and Recycling

The following businesses in Lincoln currently take fire extinguishers for recycling and disposal:

General Fire and Safety Equipment
2431 Fairfield
Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 476-4646
Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Jacobsen Fire and Equipment Company
140 W. Cornhusker Hwy
Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 474-4203
Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM

** The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department does not endorse or recommend any specific company or organization.*

Buying the Right Fire Extinguisher.

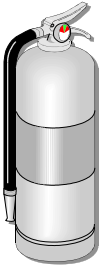
There are basically six different types or classes of fire extinguishers, each of which extinguishes specific types of fire. Newer fire extinguishers use a picture/labeling system to designate which types of fires they are to be used on. Older fire extinguishers are labeled with colored geometrical shapes with letter designations. Both of these types of labels are shown below with the description of the different classes of extinguishers. **The first three types are recommended for households.**

A



Pressurized Water Extinguishers are used for Class A fires only. *Class A* fires include ordinary combustibles, such as wood, paper, cloth, rubber and many plastics.

- Has pressure gauge to allow visual capacity check.
- Holds 2.5 gallon of water at 150-175 psi (up to 1 minute discharge time).
- Can be started and stopped as necessary.
- Extinguishes by cooling burning material below the ignition point.

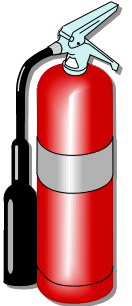


B



Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Extinguishers are used for Class B or C fires. *Class B* fires involve flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, tar, oil-based paint, lacquer and flammable gases. *Class C* fires are electrically energized fires. The presence of the letter “C” indicates that the extinguishing agent will not conduct electricity.

- 2.5 – 100 lb. of CO₂ gas at 150 – 200 psi (8-30 seconds discharge time)
- Has no pressure gauge. The capacity is verified by weight.
- 3 – 8 ft. maximum effective range.
- Extinguishes by smothering burning materials.
- Effectiveness decreases as temperature of burning material increases.



C



A



B

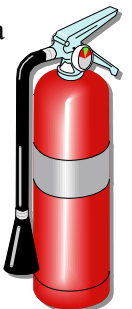


C



Multipurpose Dry Chemical Extinguishers are used in Class A, B or C fires. Multipurpose Dry Chemical extinguishers available today can be used on different types of fires and will be labeled with more than one designator, e.g. A-B, B-C, or A-B-C. Make sure that if you have a multi-purpose extinguisher it is properly labeled.

- 2.5 – 20 lb. dry chemical (*ammonium phosphate*) pressurized to 50 – 200 psi by nitrogen gas (8-25 seconds discharge time).
- Has pressure gauge to allow visual capacity check.
- 5 – 20 ft. maximum effective range.
- Extinguishes by smothering burning materials.



B

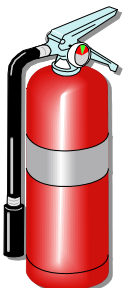


C



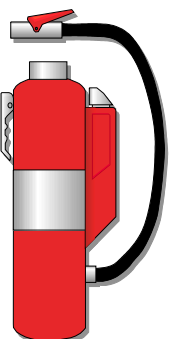
Halon Extinguishers are used in Class B or C fires.

- 9-17 lb. Halon 1211 (pressurized liquid) released as vapor (8 – 18 seconds discharge time)
- Has pressure gauge to allow visual capacity check.
- 9-16 ft. maximum effective range.
- Works best in confined area – ideal for electronics fire due to lack of residue.
- Extinguishes by smothering burning materials.
- ***Fumes are toxic if inhaled.***
- Halon an ozone depleting chemical – production halted in January 1994.



Combustible Metal Extinguishers are used in Class D fires only. *Class D* fires are flammable metals and there is no picture designator for them. Examples of combustible metals include magnesium, sodium, potassium, titanium and zirconium.

- 30 lb pressurized dry powder optimized for specific combustible metal (also available in bulk containers for hand scooping onto fires to extinguish)
- 6 – 8 ft. maximum effective range.
- To activate, must first open nitrogen cylinder on back to pressurize body.
- Extinguishes by smothering burning materials.



A



C



Wet Chemical Extinguishers are used in Class A, C, and K fires. *Class K* is a new classification and involves fires that have combustible vegetable or animal non-saturated cooking fats in commercial cooking equipment. No colored geometrical shapes with letter designations are assigned.

- 1.5 gal. of stored pressure PRX (aqueous solution of inorganic salts) wet chemical extinguishing agent (40 second discharge time)
- 10 – 12 ft. maximum effective range.
- On Class “K” fires, don’t use until after fixed extinguishing system has been activated.
- Extinguishes by cooling and forming foam blanket to prevent reignition.

